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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL 1995

30 JUL 1963

Dr. Joseph F. Shea,
Deputy Director for Engineering of
APOLLO Program
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Room 417, 891 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Shea:

One of our most important national intelligence estimates is the one concerned with the Soviet strategic capability for long-range attack which is prepared each year. As we approach the formulation of this estimate for 1963 we find a serious area of disagreement centered on the size of the SS-8 ICBM. The Air Force feels strongly that it is a large missile capable of carrying a 100 MT to ICBM ranges. CIA feels equally strongly that it is a small, accurate ICBM capable of carrying a 6 MT weapon to similar range. We should like to resolve this question if at all possible.

I gather that the intelligence data bearing on this question of ICBM size is primarily technical and lends itself to critical scientific analysis. Since the Air Force and CIA technical analyses are apparently in conflict, I have decided to constitute a panel of recognized experts in this field to review the evidence and would appreciate it if you would serve as a member of this panel. I have asked Dr. Marvin Stern, Vice President for Research and Engineering, North American Aviation, to be the chairman of the panel. In addition, I have assigned the responsibility for supporting and organizing such review to the Chairman of the Guided Missile and Aerospace Intelligence Committee of the United States Intelligence Board.

I desire that all of the relevant technical arguments be presented in complete detail for critical examination by the panel and that no stone be left unturned in developing a positive solution to the problem.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

John A. McCone
Director

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